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VISIONARIES

Knights of the Magical Light

**LAST
ISSUE!**



**THE FINAL
FLIGHT OF
ARZON!**



WINGS

QUEST OF THE FOUR TALISMANS : PART TWO

HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS OF EAST REGALIA, NORTH OF NEW VALARAK, THE UNFAMILIAR ROAR OF MIGHTY ENGINES DISTURBS THE DAY AS TWO SPECTRAL KNIGHTS GUIDE THE MYSTIC CAPTURE CHARIOT THROUGH A DARK AND NARROW RAVINE...

KEEP YOUR EYE ON OUR SPIRIT GUIDE, FERYL.

MERKLYN SAID IT WOULD LEAD US TO THE SECOND OF THE FOUR MAGIC TALISMANS -- BUT ONLY IF WE DON'T LOSE IT IN THESE REMOTE CANYONS.

AFTER THE CANNIBS MOVED TO THE VALLEYS AND PLAINS -- IT'S LIKE A GHOST TOWN UP HERE.

I WONDER WHAT WE'LL FIND IN THESE LONELY HILLS, SO FAR FROM CIVILIZATION?

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WELL, IF YOU'D LIKE,
I COULD CAST MY SPELL OF
KNOWLEDGE AND FIND OUT--

NO
THANKS.



MERKLYN HAS BEEN
SO MYSTERIOUS
ABOUT THE REASON
FOR THIS QUEST,
I'D JUST AS SOON
BE SURPRIS--

RUMMMMBLE

MOONS OF
PRYSMOS!



AVALANCHE!

CAIROOM



SIMULTANEOUSLY,
ON A PEAK ABOVE--

"BY NATURE'S
HAND, BY CRAFTS,
BY ART..."

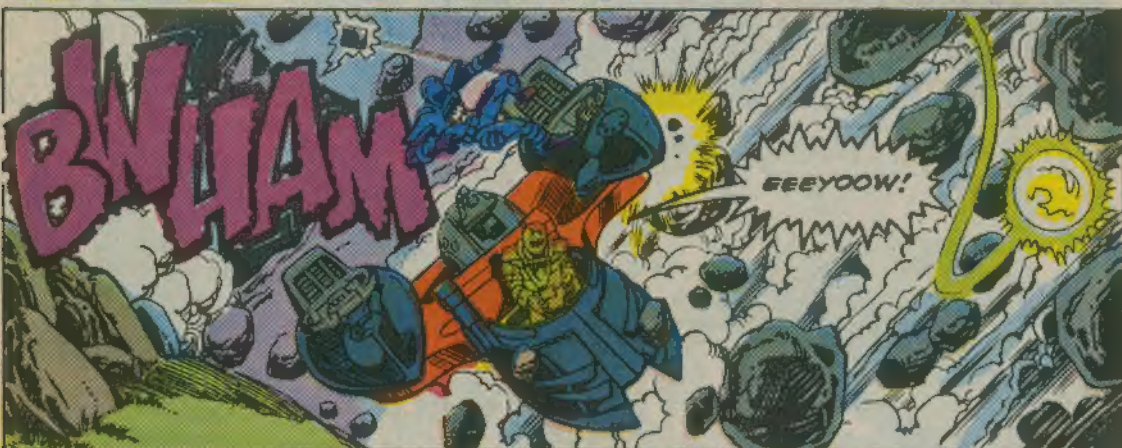
"-- WHAT ONCE
WAS ONE, NOW
FLY APART!"

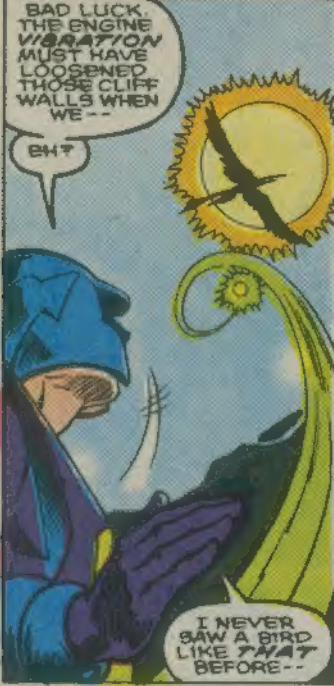
SKREE

LOVELY,
CINDARR!

CRUSH
THEM LIKE
THE BUGS
THEY ARE!







BAD LUCK. THE ENGINE VIBRATION MUST HAVE LOOSENED THOSE CLIFF WALLS WHEN WE --

EH?

I NEVER SAW A BIRD LIKE THAT BEFORE--



--AND IT SEEMS TO HAVE ATTRACTED OUR SPIRIT GUIDE.

FERYL, CAN YOU HANDLE THE REPAIRS ALONE?

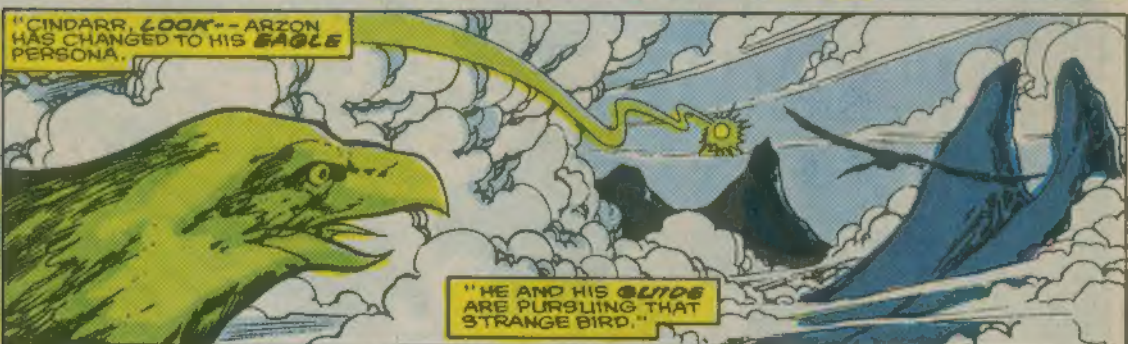
UH, SURE.



GOOD. I WANT TO INVESTIGATE THIS, AND THE BEST WAY TO DO IT IS IN MY ANIMAL PERSONA.

I'LL BE BACK BY SUNSET.

SKRAAWNK!:-



"CINDARR, LOOK--ARZON HAS CHANGED TO HIS EAGLE PERSONA.

"HE AND HIS GLIDE ARE PURSUING THAT STRANGE BIRD."



I HAVE EYES, VIRULINA.

YOU DON'T NEED TO INFORM ME OF THE OBVIOUS.

DON'T IT?

WHY ARE WE HERE, FOOL?



TO FIND THE SECOND ELEMENTAL TALISMAN BEFORE THE SPECTRAL KNIGHTS DO.

WELL, GLIDE? WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

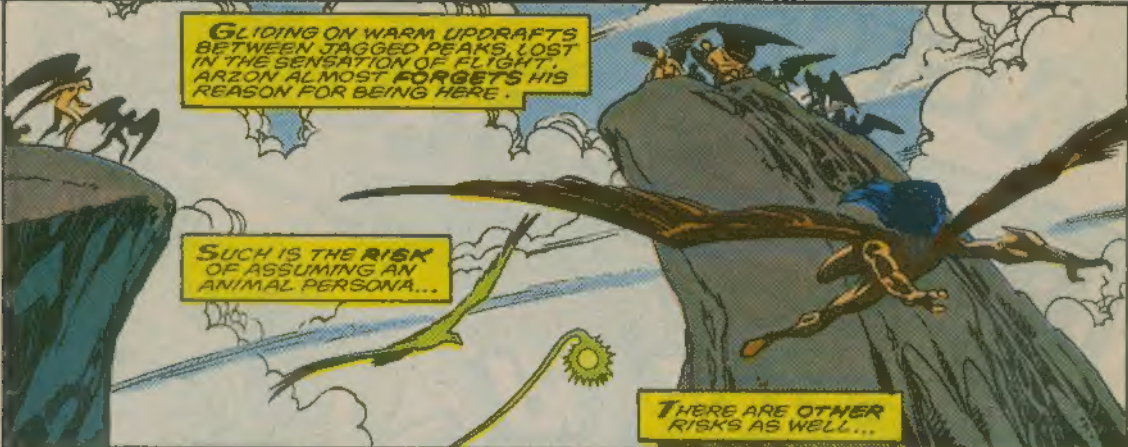
SKREEE



THE KNIGHTS GET A LIGHT BALL TO GUIDE THEM-- WE GET A LIZARD-BAT.

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF MERKLYN DOES TAKE SIDES BETWEEN US AFTER ALL.

LET HIM, ONCE WE HAVE THE MAGIC JEWELS. THAT OLD WIZARD WON'T MATTER ANY MORE.



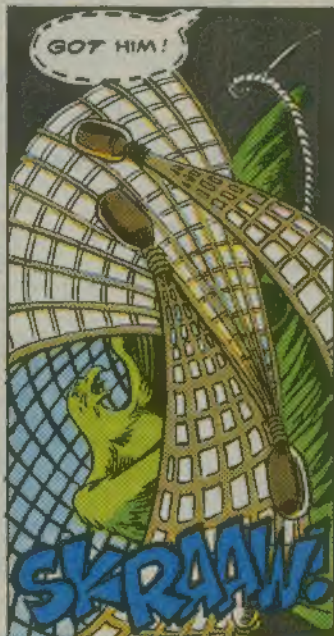
GLIDING ON WARM UPDRAFTS
BETWEEN TAGGED PEAKS, LOST
IN THE SENSATION OF FLIGHT,
ARZON ALMOST FORGETS HIS
REASON FOR BEING HERE.

SUCH IS THE RISK
OF ASSUMING AN
ANIMAL PERSONA...

THERE ARE OTHER
RISKS AS WELL...



NOW!
THROW
THE
NET!




GOT HIM!



BIG
ONE
ISN'T
HE?

ICARA
BROUGHT US
A FINE
CATCH THIS
TIME!

THUD!



WE'LL EAT WELL
TONIGHT, THANKS
TO HER.

UHHH...
HEAVIER
THAN HE
LOOKS...



WHAT
THE--?

WHERE
IN THE NAME
OF AVITRIX
DID HE COME
FROM?

LORD
AYRIE WILL
WANT TO SEE
THIS!

ELSEWHERE:

**IN THE MYSTIC
SANCTUARY OF THE
WIZARD MERKLYN
DEEP WITHIN IRON
MOUNTAIN...**



**...A MAN GROWN WEAK
WITH MORE THAN AGE
WATCHES THE IMAGES
IN HIS MAGICAL
POOL...**



**...AND SEEMS TO GROW EVEN
WEAKER AS HE SLOWLY
TURNS AWAY**

**THEY MUST
HURRY.**



**ALREADY THE
WEAKNESS
IS UPON ME.**

**I MUST
HAVE THOSE
FOUR ELEMENTAL
JEWELS BEFORE
THE COMING OF
THE SUMMER
SOLSTICE--**

**-- ELSE I FADE LIKE
A DIM MEMORY, A
FORGOTTEN DREAM.**



**I TOLD SPECTRAL
KNIGHTS AND
DARKLING LORDS
ALIKE ONLY PART
OF THE TRUTH
ABOUT THE
TALISMAN
JEWELS.**



**TRUE, EACH IS A
SOURCE OF TREMENDOUS
POWER.**

**TRUE, TOGETHER
THEY COULD MAKE
THEIR OWNER
UNDEFEATABLE.**

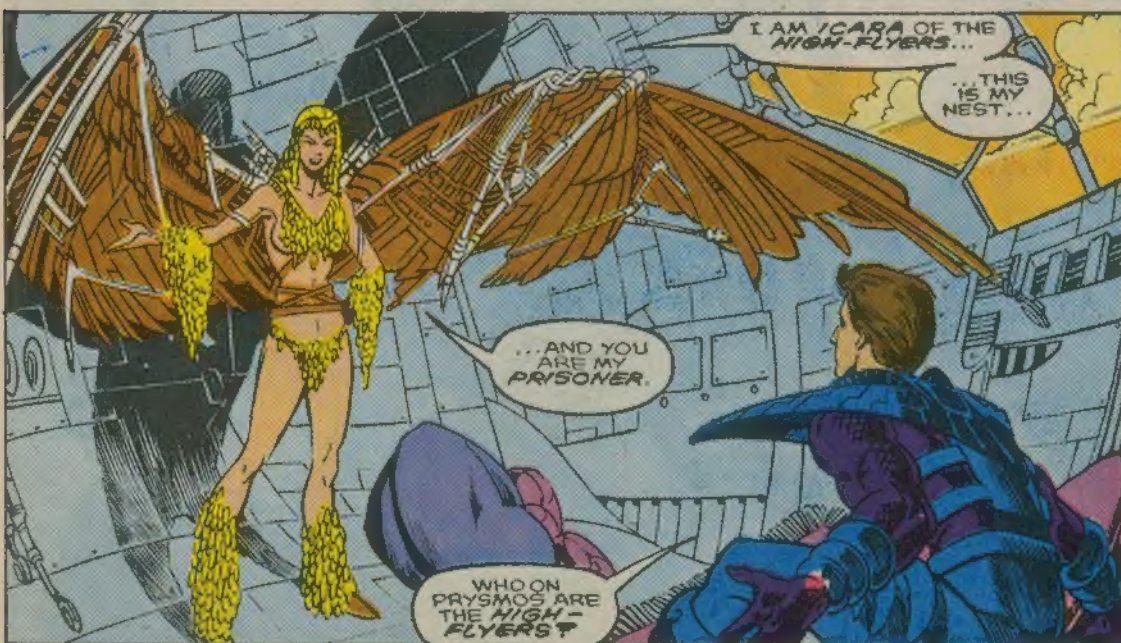


**BUT MORE THAN
THIS, THE JEWELS
ARE MY ONLY HOPE
OF SURVIVAL...**

EH?







WE ARE, GROUNDLING.
THE HIGH-FLYERS OF
AVITRIX.

WE ARE THE
CHOSEN ONES,
THE HIGHEST
OF THE HIGH.

WELL, GOOD
FOR YOU...

YOU MOCK
ME--BUT
LOOK ABOUT
YOU, FOOT-
DRAGGER.

SEE
HOW WE
LIVE--

--FAR ABOVE
ALL MORTAL
CONCERNS AND
UNTOUCHED BY
THE TROUBLES OF
THE LOWER
LANDS.

BY THE
SEVEN
MOONS...

ICARA, THESE WINGS
YOU AND YOUR
PEOPLE WEAR CAN'T BE
AERODYNAMICALLY
STABLE--HOW DO
YOU FLY?



DOES IT HAVE
ANYTHING TO DO
WITH THAT LIGHT
ON THE PEAK
ACROSS THE
VALLEY?



I NOTICE
YOUR FOLK FLY
HIGHER AND
STRONGER WHEN
NEAR IT

THAT "LIGHT" IS THE
CRYSTAL OF FLIGHT,
DISCOVERED BY MY
FATHER LORD AVRIE
SHORTLY AFTER THE
GREAT CHANGE.



ITS LIGHT POWERS
OUR WINGS, AND IT IS
PROOF WE ARE THE
CHOSEN ONES.

IT'S MORE THAN
THAT, ICARA

YOUR CRYSTAL
IS A TALISMAN
OF TREMENDOUS
MYSTIC POWER--
AND A TARGET
OF EVIL MEN
CALLED THE
DARKLING
LORDS.

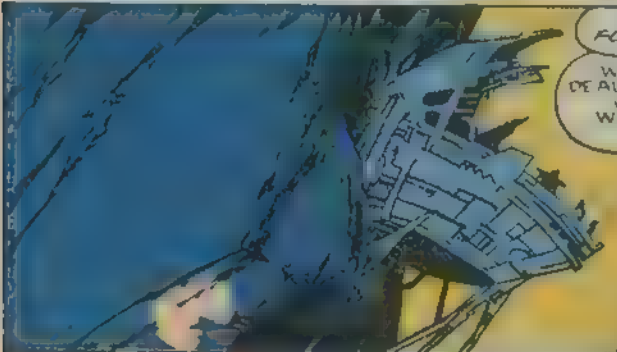


THEY TRY
TO STEAL IT.

LET THEM TRY
WE ARE PROTECTED
BY THE GOONS.

ICARA,
LISTEN--
I'LL
HELP

MAKE
A DEAL
WITH THE
SPECTRAL
AND WE
CAN--



WE ARE THE HIGH-
FLYERS, MUD-CRAWLER

WE DON'T HAVE TO
DEAL WITH ANYONE--
LEAST OF ALL A
WINGED CREATURE
LIKE YOU.



ARROGANT LITTLE -

HAMPH SHE AND HER DEEP O ARE FLYING FOR A FALL IF THEY REALLY THINK THEY'RE ABOVE THE REST OF THE WORLD

I COULD CHANGE TO MY EAGLE PERSONA AND FLY OFF, BUT I WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT MY STAFF.

HE'LL MEET ME AT THE GUN CHANGE AND SOON

SKREEEK

DISGUSTING LITTLE CREATURE

REALLY IN A WAY, IT REMINDS ME OF YOU, CINDARR.

WATCH YOUR TONGUE, VIRULINA

LORD DARKSTORM ORDERED US TO WORK AS A TEAM-- THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I DON'T PUNISH YOU FOR A REMARK LIKE THAT

VERTED WORTHY FROM AN OVERSIZED OAF

WELL GUIDE DID AR WE FIND THE JEWEL

SKREEEK

HE DID? HE IS?

WELL, WELL, ARON A FEW MIN-- AND THE JEWEL GUARDED ONLY BY A HANDFUL OF WINGED MEN PERFECT.



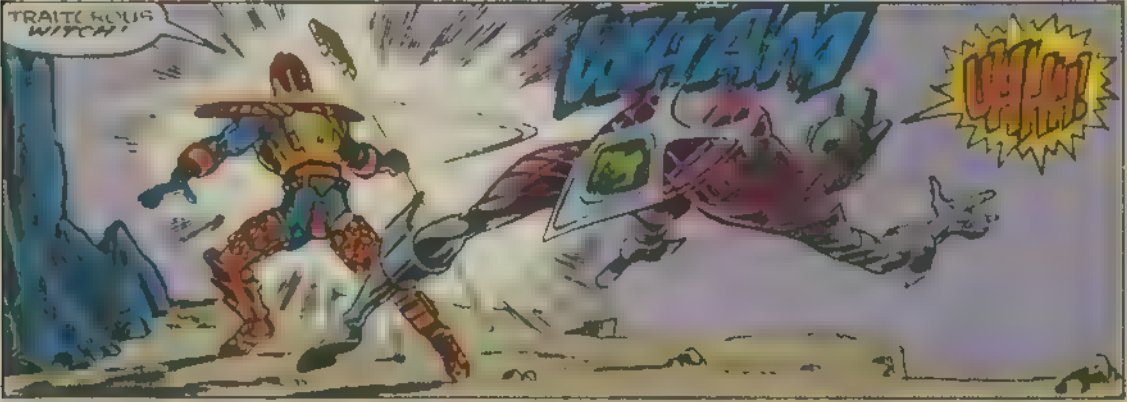
LET'S GO



SAY WE GET THIS TEFEL THIS TALISMAN WHY SHOULD WE GIVE IT TO DARKSTORM?



WHY NOT KEEP IT FOR OURSELVES - AND FIND OUR OWN DYNASTY - YOU, AND I?



TRAITOROUS WITCH!

WHAAAA!



DARKSTORM IS MY MASTER BECAUSE HE'S STRONG. I RESPECT TRENTON. I RESPECT WILL

WHY SHOULD I BETRAY HIM TO JOIN WITH YOU?



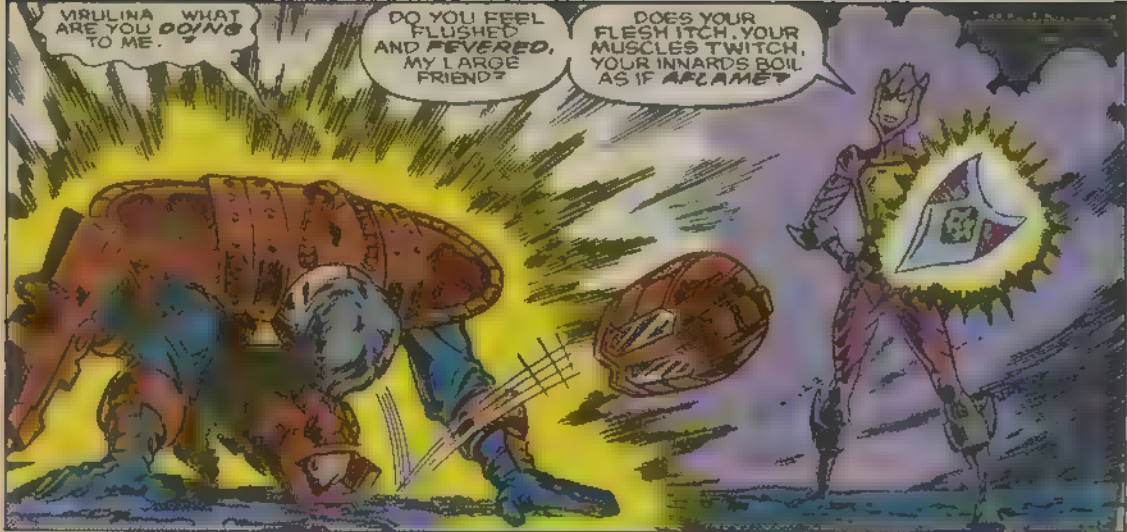
YOU WANT STRENGTH. DO YOU? FEEL MY STRENGTH, FOOL!

'WINDS OF SICKNESS ILLNESS MOST VILE -



... STRIKE DOWN MY ENEMY WITH PLEASE REVE

FEARON!



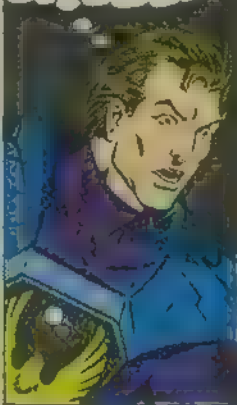
**DAWN IN THE CITY OF
HIGH FLYERS**

FOR ARZON, THE
NIGHT HAS BEEN LONG,
FILLED WITH DREAMS
MOST STRANGE

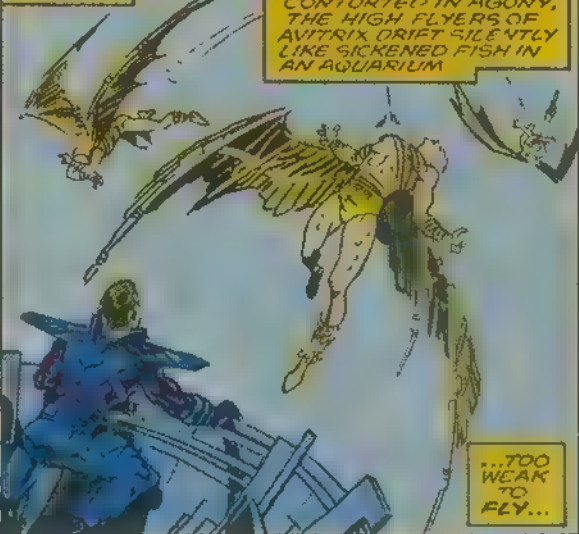


... BUT THE WAKING
REALITY THAT
GREET'S HIM IS FAR
STRANGER.

EVERYTHING'S
SO SILENT. NO
SOUND OF WINGS.
NO VOICES. I
WONDER WHAT--



**HIS THOUGHTS
FREEZE.**

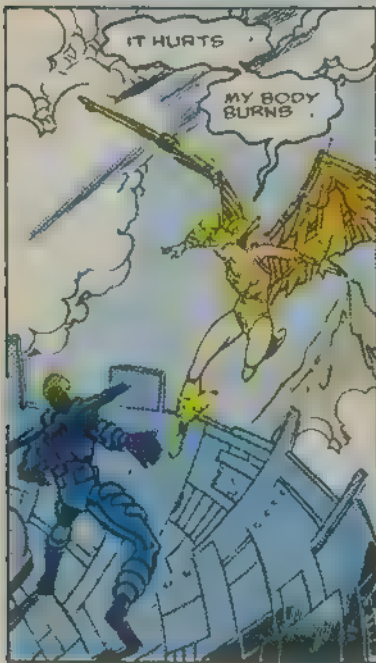
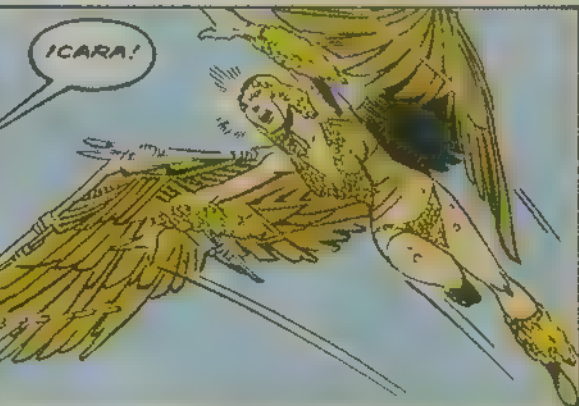
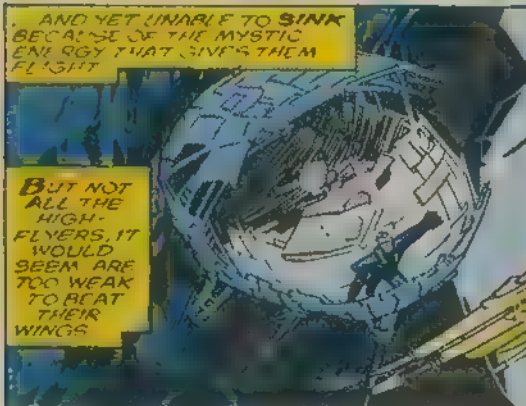


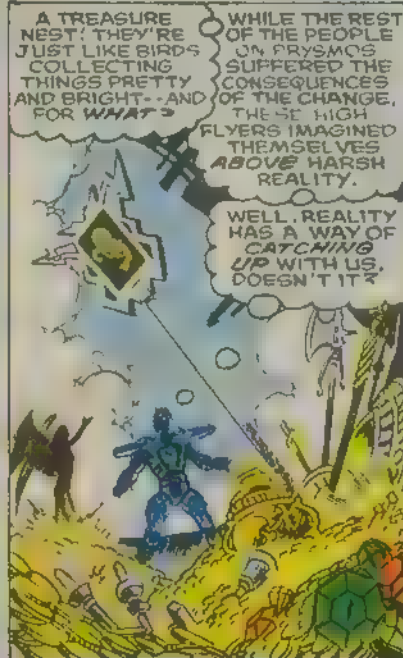
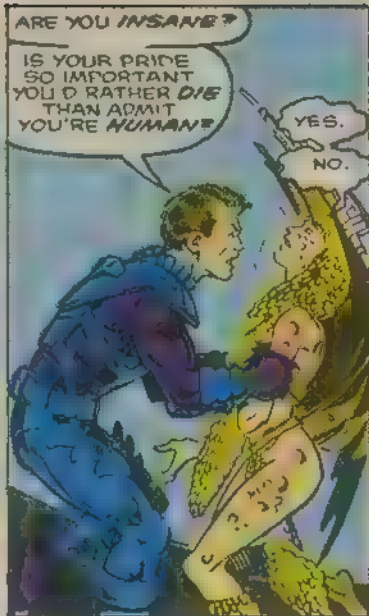
FLOATING ABOVE HIM,
CONTORTED IN AGONY,
THE HIGH FLYERS OF
AVITRIX DRIFT SILENTLY
LIKE SICKENED FISH IN
AN AQUARIUM

... TOO
WEAK
TO
FLY...

... AND YET UNABLE TO SINK
BECAUSE OF THE MYSTIC
ENERGY THAT GIVES THEM
FLIGHT

BUT NOT
ALL THE
HIGH-
FLYERS, IT
WOULD
SEEM ARE
TOO WEAK
TO BEAT
THEIR
WINGS





ALMOST INSTANTLY, A PAIR OF IMAGES FORM IN THE AIR ABOVE ARZON'S HELMETED HEAD

HE SEES CINDARR AND VIRULINA ON A PEAK OVERLOOKING THE HIGH FLYER VALLEY AS VIRULINA CASTS HER SHIELD-SPELL OF WAISTING-ILLNESS.

AND AT THE SAME MOMENT HE SEES A FIELD OF FLOWERS IN A VALE NOT FAR FROM AVITRIX, AND HE KNOWS SOMEHOW --

THOSE BLOSSOMS ARE THE CURE ICARA

WE'LL NEED A SACK TO HOLD THEM AND I'LL NEED YOUR HELP - I CAN'T CARRY MUCH IN MY FLEET PERSONA

ANYTHING

WHY DO YOU AID US GROUNDLING AFTER I TREATED YOU SO CRUELLY?

TWO REASONS

FIRST, IT'S MY SWORN DUTY AS A SPECTRAL KNIGHT.

SECOND I CAN'T HOLD A GRUDGE FOR WHAT YOU SAID AND DID.

AFTER ALL, AND THIS IS THE PART YOU'LL FIND HARD TO BELIEVE, YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN

AT THAT MOMENT INSIDE AVITRIX VALLEY

HA! WHAT DID I TELL YOU, CINDARR?

A SPELL CAST TO SILENCE ONLY THE HIGH FLYERS IN THIS VALLEY LEAVE THEM WEAK AND HELPLESS - AND US UNAFFECTED

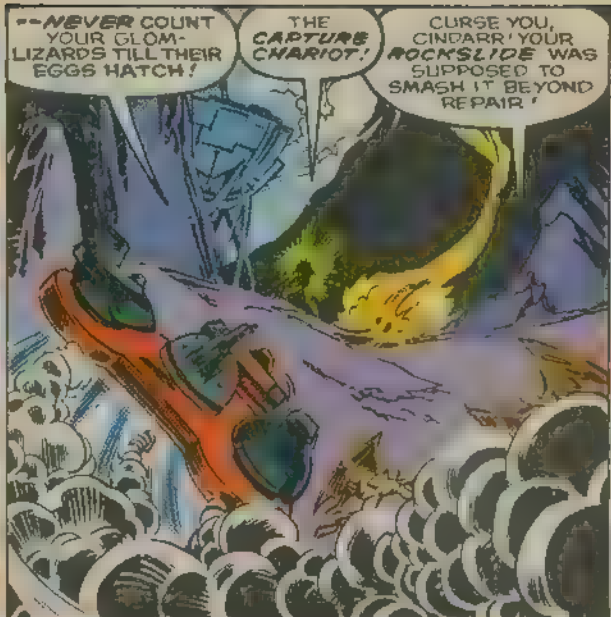
IN AN HOUR THEY'LL BE DEAD, AND WE'LL HAVE THE TALISMAN!



THERE'S AN OLD SAYING THAT APPLIES HERE, DARKLING LORD...

HUH?

ROOSH!



--NEVER COUNT YOUR GLOM-LIZARDS TILL THEIR EGGS HATCH!

THE CAPTURE CHARIOT!

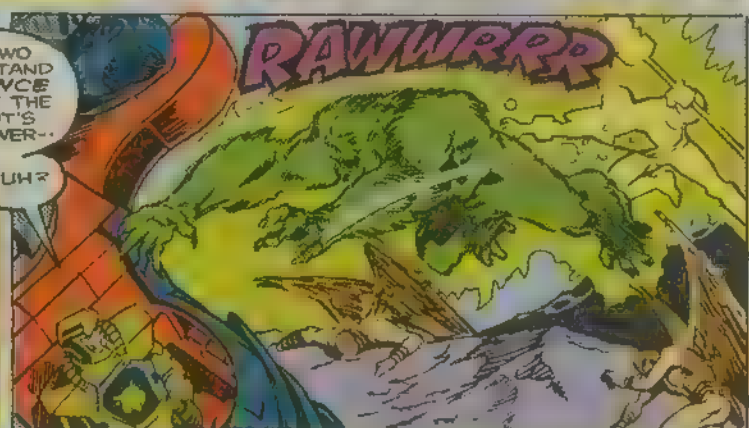
CURSE YOU, CINDARR! YOUR ROCKSLIDE WAS SUPPOSED TO SMASH IT BEYOND REPAIR!



MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT A DRAW, CINDARR

YOU TWO DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE CHARIOT'S FIREPOWER--

HUH?



RAWWRRR



NOW WHO'S COUNTING HIS GLOM-LIZARDS, KNIGHT?

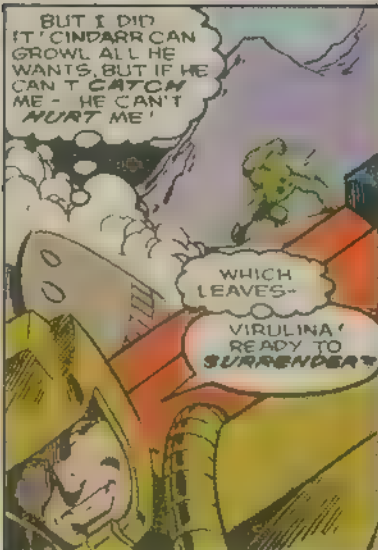
CINDARR'S BORILLA-- PERSONA-- GOTTA THROW HIM OFF BEFORE HE GETS A GRIP!

SPIN THE CHARIOT--



RAWWRR

--UNNGH! ALMOST TWISTED MY HEAD OFF!



BUT I DID IT 'CINDARR CAN GROWL ALL HE WANTS, BUT IF HE CAN'T CATCH ME - HE CAN'T HURT ME'

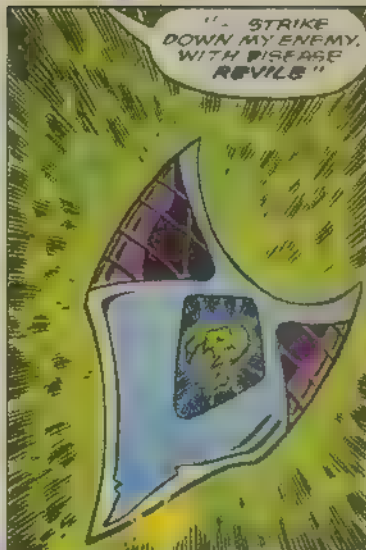
WHICH LEAVES--

VIRULINA' READY TO SURRENDER?

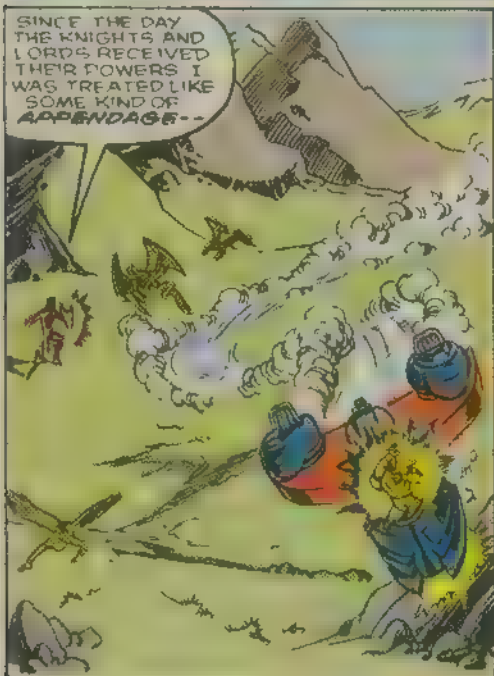
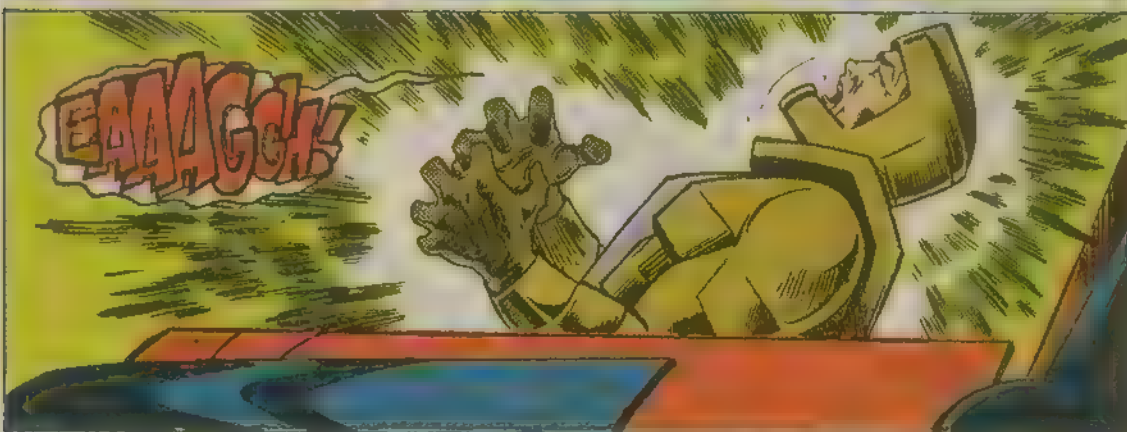


GET SERIOUS

"WINDS OF SICKNESS, ILLNESS MOST VILE--"



"... STRIKE DOWN MY ENEMY, WITH DISEASE REVILS"



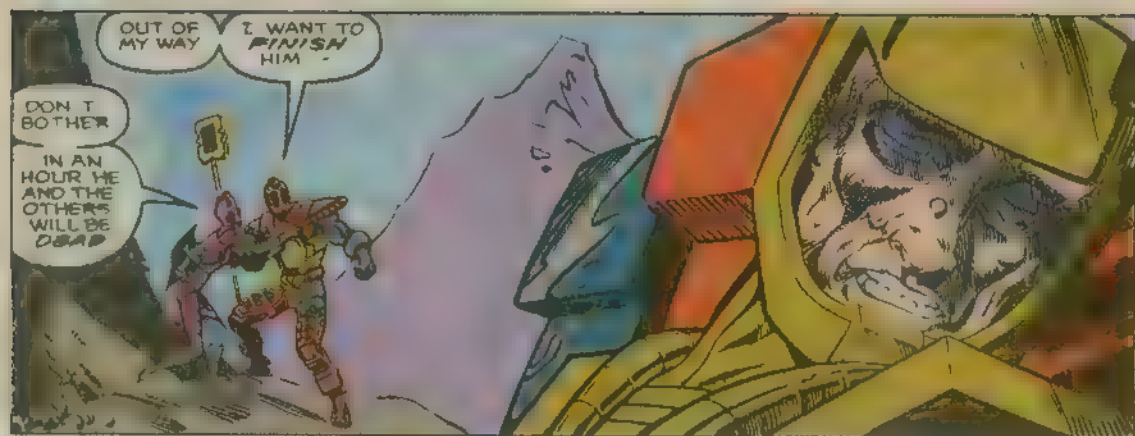
SINCE THE DAY THE KNIGHTS AND LORDS RECEIVED THEIR POWERS I WAS TREATED LIKE SOME KIND OF APPENDAGE--



-- BEAUTIFUL, BUT USELESS, BECAUSE MERKLYN GAVE ME NO MYSTIC ABILITY

EVERYTHING'S DIFFERENT, NOW

SOON ALL MEN WILL FEAR VIRULINA...



ICARA! YOU CAN'T COLLAPSE NOW!

I NEED YOU TO CARRY THE BLOSSOMS BACK TO THE VALLEY!

TOO WEAK...

IF YOU DON'T HELP, YOUR PEOPLE WILL DIE! IT'S UP TO YOU!

ARE YOU A HIGH-FLYER-- OR MUD-CRAWLER?

HIGH-FLYER...

PROVE IT.

IN EVERY LIFE, THERE IS A MOMENT OF CHALLENGE.

AT THAT MOMENT, WE LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES-- WHETHER WE ARE QUITTERS, OR WHETHER WE ARE FIGHTERS.

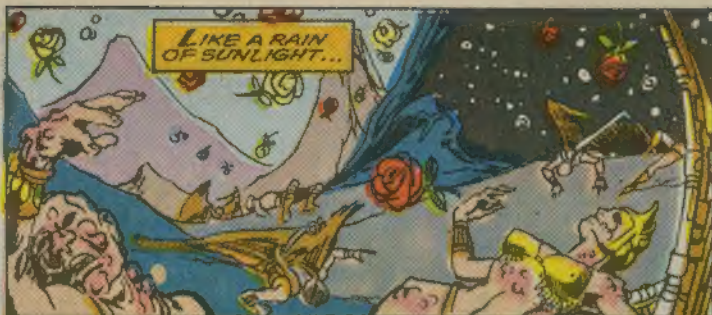
TODAY A WOMAN MET THE CHALLENGE.

SHE LEARNED SHE IS A FIGHTER...

...AND FOR HER, DEATH
IS NO LONGER SOMETHING
TO FEAR...



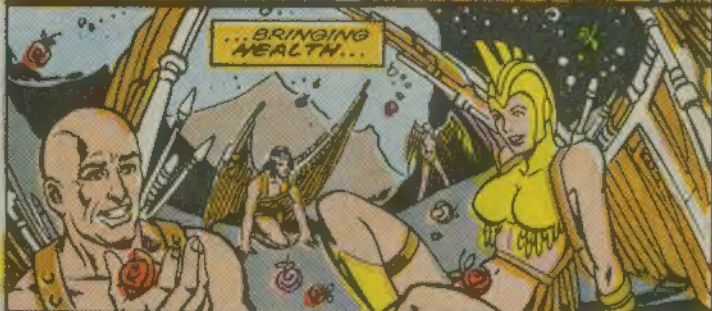
LIKE A RAIN
OF SUNLIGHT...



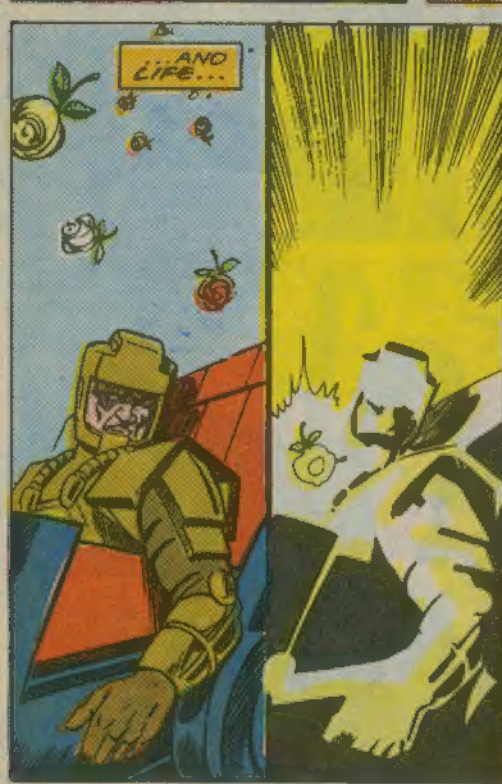
...FLOWERS FALL
FROM THE SKY...



...BRINGING
WEALTH...



...AND
LIFE...



MOONS OF
PRYSMOS!



WE WERE SO
CLOSE!

IF NOT FOR YOUR
INCOMPETENCE
WE'D HAVE WON.



MY
INCOMPETENCE?

WHY
YOU--

A RAIN OF
SUNLIGHT,
FLOWERS
FROM THE
SKY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER
LIFE, ICARA KNOWS WHAT IT
MEANS TO STRUGGLE AND
SURVIVE.

TODAY SHE IS A "CHOSEN ONE"
NOT BY LUCK OR PROVIDENCE,
BUT BY HER OWN INDOMITABLE
SPIRIT.

IT FEELS...

...GLORIOUS!

A FEW HOURS LATER,
AFTER THE RECOVERED
HIGH-FLYERS HAVE MET
IN A SECRET CONCLAVE...

WE'VE DECIDED--
YOU MUST TAKE
THE CRYSTAL!

USE IT WELL,
AND IF YOU
CAN, BRING IT
BACK TO US!

ARE YOU SURE?
WITHOUT IT,
YOUR PEOPLE
MAY NEVER FLY
AGAIN...

WITHOUT YOUR
HELP, WE WOULDN'T
EVEN BE ALIVE.

BESIDES,
WE'VE BEEN
ABOVE THE
WORLD TOO
LONG.

IT'S TIME WE
WERE SIMPLY...
HUMAN.

YOU KNOW, ARZON--
BY NOW THE OTHER
KNIGHTS AND
LORDS WILL HAVE
COLLECTED
THE REMAINING
JEWELS.

WHEN WE GET BACK
TO IRON MOUNTAIN,
WE'LL FINALLY LEARN
THE TRUTH OF WHY
MERKLYN WANTS THESE
TALISMANS SO BADLY.

I HOPE SO,
FERYL.

AND WHATEVER THAT
TRUTH MAY BE, I HAVE
A SUSPICION WE MAY
NOT LIKE IT...

BUT THAT TRUTH
MUST REMAIN UN-
REVEALED, FOR,
SADLY, DEAR
READERS, THIS IS
THE FINAL ISSUE
OF
VISIONARIES



VISIONARIES™



Letters Page

BOB BUDIAWSKY: EDITOR — DWAYNE MCDUFFIE: ASSISTANT EDITOR

C/O MARVEL COMICS-387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH-NEW YORK, NEW YORK-10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FULL ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE BE SURE TO TELL US SO!

Dear Bob, Jim, Mark and Rorono,

I was reading VISIONARIES #4 (which was great), when I came across something interesting on the letters page. In one of your replies to a reader, you wrote "... let us know what's good, bad and why!" Well, I'm writing to give you a few of my ideas and suggestions on what I'd like to see more of in the VISIONARIES. I'd love to see more of Lexor, Cryotek and the battle crafts. I'd also like to see a new "bad guy" in VISIONARIES. Why? Because the Darkling Lords always lose (not that I want them to win all the time, of course). I just wanted to give you a few ideas.

Lloyd Richard
28 Buckle Drive
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3R-2N7

Thanks for writing in to let us know what you think, Lloyd. We do value our readers' opinions.

Dear VISIONARIES,

Bravo! Finally a quality children's comic book that's not just for children! Everything about the VISIONARIES looks great to me, from the art and writing down to the letters (O.K., so I don't know a whole lot about lettering ... I know what I can read, though!). It's also a refreshing change from the super hero/mutant books I usually read. Nothing wrong with Mutant Mania, but I like to add in a bit of Knight Life. I do have a complaint, though ... why is this book bi-monthly? I hate waiting for my VISIONARIES. I've bought all the issues with great vehemence.

I've liked all the issues so far, but issue #4 was unquestionably the best. The story went more deeply into the personalities of Cindar and Witterquick, using their totems, which was quite interesting. It was much more than the old-fashioned "good-guys-fight-bad-guys-and-win" format that I expected. In the end, when Cindar teamed up with Witterquick to defeat Sirena, it showed that the Darkling Lords aren't all bad, and have feelings, too. Ah in all, VISIONARIES #4 was the best issue so far. I am expecting great things from VISIONARIES!

Tad Chamberlain
9457 Riverark Rd.
Columbia, MD 21045

So, tell me, Tad, do you like VISIONARIES? But seriously, enthusiasm like yours is what makes Marvel's fans so great, and our job easier. Thanks. One more thing ... how do you read with great vehemence? Does it involve ripping pages, or is this a measure of story intensity?

Dear Holo-Grams (or whatever you're calling yourselves),

I just read VISIONARIES #4. It was smashing! I think you should make other warlords like Kalor attack the Visionaries, because we get to learn more about the Visionaries and their world when this happens. It also makes them seem more real. Also, put Merklyn back in action! Don't just have him standing around eating pizza, because it seems kinda dumb to have this really powerful magician who sits around all day.

Devin Low
96 Cedarwood Road
Stamford, CT 06903

Devin, are you sure they even have pizza on Prysmos? Doesn't seem like quite the dish Merklyn would choose, at any rate! You can be sure he doesn't just sit around, but as for what he does do ... well, that would be telling, now!

Dear Marvel,

Hasbro and Marvel have done it again! Not since the incredibly popular G.I. JOE have I seen a concept as interesting and enjoyable as this. VISIONARIES is fascinating fare. I only wish it were part of the Marvel Universe, so that we could see some cross-overs with Marvel super heroes. Anyway, this is one book that's not just kid-oriented. I'm twenty-seven, and I love VISIONARIES!

Jim Salicrup has taken the VISIONARIES concept and produced one of the most interesting fantasy-based series I have read in a long time. The artwork is superb as well, and the characterization is excellent and very well defined.

I would like to add a plug for the weekend VISIONARIES television series, which is produced by Marvel Productions. The show is just as good as the comic, so I know you'll love it! Besides, with Stan (the Man) Lee in charge of Marvel Productions, you know it's gotta be good. Thank you, Marvel, for VISIONARIES. Long may it prosper!

Thomas Wheeler
1511 W. Sendero Cuatro
Tucson, AZ 85704

Gee, Thomas, you and Ted ought to get together and form a fan club. Talk about loyal readers!

Dear VISIONARIES,

I recently started to collect VISIONARIES. Hey, it is great. Well, excellent! Hey, Mark, nice penciling, Julianna, nice coloring, and my compliments to the others of the VISIONARIES crew. I was really fascinated with this new comic. I first saw it on a TV commercial, and could hardly wait for it to come out. I checked at the comics store, and rushed to buy my copy of issue #1.

The VISIONARIES issue that I enjoyed most, other than issue #1, was issue #3 —

"The Star Stone." Other than the lo-o-o-ong wait for it, it was perfect. Well, nearly. On page #9, Arzon said that he'd never tried his staff's magic power of knowledge, but he had, in issue #2. Am I not right?

Keep up the good work, dudes! I look forward to the upcoming issues!

Berry Mek
15813-4 Francisquito Ave.
Valinda, CA 91744

Arzon didn't mean that he had never used his staff of knowledge, Berry. He had not thought to use it on the scroll he was trying to read, until Merklyn reminded him of his power. You've been reading too much GROO, which is probably why you're confused. Am I not wrong?

Dear VISIONARIES,

I started reading VISIONARIES to my young son when the series first began. I found it on the rack at my favorite comic shop, and it seemed like the kind of story Justin would like. He's really not ready for my favorites like IRON MAN and DAREDEVIL, but with VISIONARIES I can introduce him to comics. It also keeps him from ripping up my collection.

The funny thing is, I've started to like VISIONARIES for myself, as well. I wait eagerly to see what the Knights of Prysmos will be doing in each issue. Justin and I even play games about the Knights, but he's always a Spectral Knight and I have to be the Darkling Lords. Oh, well. Anyway, thanks for a great comic that keeps Justin busy and happy, and entertains me, too.

Allyson Dwyer
456 Old Grain Road
Knoxville, TN

Sounds like a good arrangement to us, Allyson. We're always glad to hear that Marvel comics are enjoyed by our younger readers ... and by their mothers, too!

(BAD) NEWSFLASH! As we, the editors and creators of VISIONARIES, were preparing to send this issue to press, we were suddenly informed by the powers-that-be (who, no doubt, are controlled by the Darkling Lords), that this would be the final issue of VISIONARIES. Your surprise and sadness can hardly be more than our own over this development. So, allow us to take this final opportunity to thank you, our loyal readers, for your support and enthusiasm and to assure you that somewhere, somewhere, the Spectral Knights continue their valiant struggle to defeat the evil Darkling Lords and bring a new age of peace, love and harmony to planet Prysmos!